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FRETILIN SECRETARY FOR INFORMATION ANSWERS
JOURNALISTS QUESTIONS

During the fourth two-way radio contact with East Timor from Darwin on June 18 ,Mr Alarico Fernandes, Secretary for Information and National Security of the Fretilin Central Committee, answered questions from Darwin journalist Alan Croft.

Q: How is fighting going in East Timor ? Do you control more territory than a year ago ?

Mr Fernandes: Fighting is East Timor is going very intense all over the country and Fretilin forces, the glorious Falintil, control most parts of the country, 80% of the national soil, defeating the vandal Indonesian invaders on all fronts.

q: Do you control mostly farming country ,or towns and people ?

A: Fretilin revolutionary forces still continuously control most part of the country,80% as I told you.Inside the large controlled areas by Fretilin,food production is increasing day by day and the people of East Timor are working hard in national reconstruction and are aware of their just struggle and are therefore continuously progressing on the way of the revolution.

Q: Do you have enough food and medical supplies ?

A: Under Portuguese colonial domination, starvation in East Timor was a sickness and now we are progressively eliminating the starvation and the people of East Timor are happy in East Timor because they know they are free and independent but they have to fight to the final victory.They have to repel the vandal invaders.

Q: Have you enough medical supplies ?Which do you need most ?

A: Fretilin principle is to rely on our own forces,and Fretilin id following this very hard,because of the criminal aggression carried out by the corrupt JakartaGovernment,so certainly the situation is not beautiful,but we are doing our best,counting on our own forces. So concerning medicaments, we are improving the traditional medicaments,which are very good and efficient.

Q: An Australian journalist in Jakarta estimated that Fretilin had 500 men with guns and rifles. Is this correct ?

A: I wish to reply that Fretilin is the people of East Timor and the people of East Timor is Fretilin. The people of East Timor are fighting with weapons in hands and mostly they are fighting.They know who the enemy is. Telling that 500 men or 1,000 is a funny thing.

Q: Australian journalists said that some Fretilin people surrendered,giving up arms,swearing oaths of allegiance to Indonesia ?

A: I think I have to say how did they get this information in the outside world, why the journalists don't come to East Timor to see the reality ? I will seek further information from Lospalos and let you know later.

Q: Is there any political or non-violent solution for East Timor ?

A: The United Nations Security Council and General Assembly resolutions demanded the immediate withdrawal of Indonesian troops from East Timor. Why do they not do it ?

Q: Would you be prepared to talk to Indonesia about sharing power in East Timor ?

A: Fretilin Central Committee and the heroic people of East Timor are firm : negotiations with the enemy never, but the total and unconditional withdrawal of all Indonesian troops from East Timor. The corrupt Jakarta Government has to immediately respect the United Nations resolutions.

Q: Do you think that President Carter should speak up on East Timor ?

A: The people of East Timor are the sole masters of East Timor and of course President Carter is the President of America. The people of East Timor are fully aware of their just struggle .The people of East Timor are fully aware of their just struggle.The people of East Timor count on their own forces and so are defeating the vandal Indonesian invaders,the corrupt Suharto and their puppets and all the enemies which try to come to East Timor. The people of East Timor are aware that victory is certain.

Q: Are the Indonesians exporting coffee from East Timor ?

A: Indonesian soldiers and officers and other puppets in East Timor are working hard for their own interests and not the best interests of the brother Indonesian people, so are sacking coffee in East Timor. Coffee spoiled(sacked) by Indonesian officers is certainly being sold to other countries. All the riches of East Timor belong to the people of East Timor.

Q: Australia Government has given aid to the Indonesian Red Cross for the people of East Timor. Do you see any of that aid ?

A: That's very funny.We heard by radio the Australian Government offered money to the Indonesian Red Cross but the captured population in Indonesian concentration camps in East Timor,particularly in Dili, are dying because of shortage of medicaments.

Q: How many people are in the concentration camps ?

A: Those who the vandal Indonesian invaders were able to capture.

Q: Australian Government diplomats were in East Timor ? Did Fretilin talk to them

A: No,No,No. Because they only visited Indonesian concentration camps .Particularly the Timorese population captured by the Indonesians are very disatisfied because they want to speak with.. about the Indonesian presence but were not able to contact these persons.

Q: Do Timorese wish to go to other countries?

A: Accordingto information we know that the Timorese population in Indonesian concentration camps particularly in Dili ,many people are anxious to go with families in Australia and other parts of the world.

Q: Do you consider the Australian Government is friendly to Fretilin ?

A: The Democratic Republic of East Timor wishes to establish good relations with all countries throughout the world, all countries should not interfere in other countries internal affaars.

(Note: The broadcast contact had to be cut short after one hour,due to heavy interference which prevent Mr Fernandes hearing Darwin. This also occurred from time to time during the broadcast, and is the reason why some questions were not fully understood).